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Art Unit: 3643

Employee# 73077

Tuesday, February 03, 2009

Case Serial Number: 09/628463

From: Etelka R. Griffin

Location: EIC 3600

KNOX/4B68

Phone:571-272-4230

Etelka.griffin@uspto.gov

Searon Notes

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Etelka



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Patents 🔣

Terms: patno=6370811 (Edit Search | Suggest Terms for My Search)

628463 (09) 6370811 April 16, 2002

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE GRANTED PATENT

6370811

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April 16, 2002

Apparatus and method for monitoring termite activity

APPL-NO: 628463 (09)

FILED-DATE: July 31, 2000

GRANTED-DATE: April 16, 2002

CORE TERMS: bait, flag, cavity, organisms, barrier, entrance, housing, termite, soil,

porous ...

ENGLISH-ABST:

Apparatus, for detecting the presence and eating activity of organisms such as termites that damage structures, includes a body; a wooden bait element controllably exposed to the organisms within a cavity of the body, and having an applied bait substance; a side wall of the body having a vertically spaced plurality of smoothly converging entrance passages for admitting the organisms, a consumable porous barrier covering each of the entrance passages. Spring tension is applied to an upper end of the bait element, an opposite end being anchored to the body. A flag member that is connected to the upper end of the bait element projects from the body when the bait element is weakened to the predetermined amount by the organisms.

Source: Legal > Area of Law - By Topic > Patent Law > Find Patents > More U.S. Patents > Utility, Design and Plant

Patents :

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View: Custom

Segments: Abst, Appl-no, Assignee, English-abst, Filed-date, Granted-date, Pct-appl-no, Reexam-cert

Date/Time: Tuesday, February 3, 2009 - 3:27 PM EST

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No documents were found for your search terms "6370811 or 6,370,811"

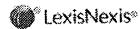
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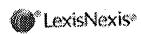


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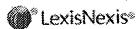
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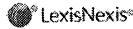
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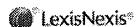
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1 / 1
Family Accession Nbr :
  20042800562395
Patent Number :
                                 [US6370811]
                  B1 20020416
  US6370811
Title:
  Apparatus and method for monitoring termite activity
Inventor(s):
  MASTERSON MICHAEL J
Application Nbr :
  2000US-0628463 20000731
Priority Details :
  2000US-0628463 20000731
IPC :
  A01M-001/02
  A01M-001/10
  A01M-001/20
IPC Advanced All:
  A01M-001/02 [2006-01 A - I R M EP]; A01M-001/20 [2006-01 A - I R M EP]
IPC Core All :
  A01M-001/02 [2006 C - I R M EP]; A01M-001/20 [2006 C - I R M EP]
ECLA:
  A01M-001/02E
  A01M-001/20B1
ICO Code :
  K01M-200/011
  ORIGINAL (O): 043121000; CROSS-REFERENCE (X): 043124000 043131000
   043132100 340573100
Citations :
   (US6370811)
   Cited in the search report
   -US6016625 (A) [US6016625]
   -US6065241 (A) [US6065241]
   -US6100805 (A) [US6100805]
   -US6158166(A)[US6158166]
   -US6189393 (B1) [US6189393]
   -US6219960 (B1) [US6219960]
   -US6255959 (B1) [US6255959]
   -US6266918 (B1) [US6266918]
   Cited by the applicant
   -US3564750 (A) [US3564750]
   -US5329726(A)[US5329726]
   -US5575105 (A) [US5575105]
   -US5592774 (A) [US5592774]
   -US5899018 (A) [US5899018]
   -US5901496 (A) [US5901496]
   -"Systematic Termite Control(TM)" brochure; FMC Corporation; 7/99; 2 pp.
   -"Termatrol Pro" brochure; Sector Diagnostics, LLC; no date; 2 pp.
   -"Quarterra Extended Inspection Interval Station" brochure; Ensystex; no
   date; 2 pp.
 Abstract :
    (US6370811)
   Apparatus, for detecting the presence and eating activity of organisms
   such as termites that damage structures, includes a body; a wooden bait
   element controllably exposed to the organisms within a cavity of the
   body, and having an applied bait substance; a side wall of the body
   having a vertically spaced plurality of smoothly converging entrance
   passages for admitting the organisms, a consumable porous barrier
   covering each of the entrance passages. Spring tension is applied to an
   upper end of the bait element, an opposite end being anchored to the
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body. A flag member that is connected to the upper end of the bait element projects from the body when the bait element is weakened to the predetermined amount by the organisms.

Object of Invention :

(US6370811)

The present invention relates to pest control, and more particularly to monitoring termite activity proximate and especially under building

In one aspect of the invention, an apparatus for signaling a cumulative amount of weakening of a test material resulting from exposure to a hazardous environment includes a body; a test element supported relative to the body and comprising the test material; means for controllably exposing the test element to the hazardous environment; means for applying a load force to the test element, the load force being effective for displacing a portion of the test element when there is a predetermined amount of weakening of the test element; a flag member movably supported relative to the body and coupled to the test element for movement in projecting relation to the body when the test element is weakened to the predetermined amount.

In another aspect of the invention, an apparatus for detecting the presence and eating activity of organisms that damage structures by consuming portions thereof includes the body; a bait element supported relative to the body and comprising a consumable structural material; means for controllably exposing the bait element to the organisms; means for applying a load force to the bait element, the load force being effective for displacing a portion of the bait element when there is a predetermined amount of weakening of the bait element; a flag member movably supported relative to the body and coupled to the bait element for movement in projecting relation to the body when the bait element is weakened to the predetermined amount by the organisms.

Advantages / Prev. Drawbacks :

(US6370811)

Thus there is a need for a device that facilitates detection and monitoring of infestation of soil environments of building structures by destructive organisms, that is both effective and easy to use, and that is inexpensive to provide.

The outwardly directed condensation advantageously creates an enlarged moisture barrier around the housing 12, thereby enhancing the attraction of termite activity to the monitor apparatus 10. Termite infestation and damage is a continuing problem in buildings

having wood structure.

- b. the original placement of the unit is difficult to determine; 2. They are difficult to install and monitor, especially when implanted in crawl space under structures.

Independent Claims :

(US6370811)

- 1. Apparatus for signaling a cumulative amount of weakening of a test material resulting from exposure to a hazardous environment, comprising:
- (a) a body;
- (b) a test element supported relative to the body and comprising the test material;
- (c) means for controllably exposing the test element to the hazardous environment;
- (d) means for applying a load force to the test element, the load force being effective for displacing a portion of the test element when there is a predetermined amount of weakening of the test element;
- (e) a flag member movably supported relative to the body and coupled to the test element for movement in projecting relation to the body when the test element is weakened to the predetermined amount.
- 3. Apparatus for detecting the presence and eating activity of organisms that damage structures by consuming portions thereof, the apparatus comprising:

(a) a body;

(b) a bait element supported relative to the body and comprising a consumable structural material;

(c) means for controllably exposing the bait element to the organisms;

- (d) means for applying a load force to the bait element, the load force being effective for displacing a portion of the bait element when there is a predetermined amount of weakening of the bait element;
- (e) a flag member movably supported relative to the body and coupled to the bait element for movement in projecting relation to the body when the bait element is weakened to the predetermined amount by the organisms.

17. A method for monitoring a predetermined cumulative eating activity of organisms on a bait member, comprising:

- (a) providing a housing body having an elongate cavity and a side wall
- (b) anchoring one end of the bait member to the body with the bait member extending within the cavity;
- (c) connecting a flag member to an opposite end of the bait member with the flag member extending to proximate a flag opening of the body;
- (d) connecting a spring member between the flag member and the housing body for tensioning the bait member;
- (e) placing the housing body in a medium subject to infestation by the organisms with the side wall passage being accessible by the organisms and the flag opening being located outside the medium; and
- (f) periodically observing the housing body for display to the flag member in an extended position thereof.
- 19. Apparatus for detecting the presence and eating activity of organisms that damage structures by consuming portions thereof, the apparatus comprising:
- (a) a body forming an elongate housing having respective bottom and top extremities;
- (b) a bait element supported relative to the body and comprising a wood member having a bait substance applied thereto;
- (c) means for controllably exposing the bait element to the organisms, comprising the body having a cavity for enclosing the bait element, a side wall of the body having a vertically spaced plurality of entrance passages formed therein for admitting the organisms, the entrance passages extending between a first opening in an outside surface of the side wall and a second opening in an inside surface of the side wall, the first opening having a first area, the second opening having a second area being less than the first area, the passages smoothly tapering between the first area and the second area, a consumable porous barrier member covering each of the entrance passages, the entrance passages and the barrier member being on a first face of the body, the body also including a second face having counterparts of the entrance passages and the barrier member;
- (d) means for applying a load force to the bait element, comprising a first coupling for anchoring one end to the bait element to the body, a second coupling for connecting an opposite end of the bait element, and a spring for applying tensile load to the bait element through the

second coupling, the load force being effective for displacing a portion of the bait element when there is a predetermined amount of weakening of the bait

(e) a flag member movably supported relative to the body and connected to the second coupling for movement in projecting relation to the body when the bait element is weakened to the predetermined amount by the organisms.

Update New docs :

2002-17

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1 / 1 LGST - ©EPO
Patent Number :
  US6370811 B1 20020416 [US6370811](B1) Granted patent as first
publication
Application Number :
  US62846300 20000731 [2000US-0628463]
Publication actions :
  20000731 US-API [POS; EXM]
  FILING DETAILS
  US62846300 20000731 [2000US-0628463]
  20020416 US-B1 [POS; PIF]
  Granted patent as first publication
  US6370811 B1 20020416 [US6370811]
Action Taken :
  20040803 US/RF-A [OPP]
  REISSUE APPLICATION FILED
  EFFECTIVE DATE: 20040415
Lasted Event Group :
  OPP
  Alive
Update Code :
  2004-34
1 / 1 CRXX - @CLAIMS/RRX
Patent Number :
  6,370,811 A 20020416 [US6370811]
Patent Assignee :
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EXAMINATION GROUP RESPONSIBLE FOR REISSUEPROCESS: 3643

Reissue Patent Number:

Masterson, Michael J

20040415 REISSUE REQUESTED ISSUE DATE OF O.G.: 20040803 REISSUE REQUEST NUMBER: 10/826905

Actions :

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PLUSPAT - @Questel
1 / 1
Patent Number :
  US6370811 B1 20020416 [US6370811]
  (B1) Apparatus and method for monitoring termite activity
Inventor(s):
  (B1) MASTERSON MICHAEL J (US)
Application Nbr :
  US62846300 20000731 [2000US-0628463]
Priority Details :
  US62846300 20000731 [2000US-0628463]
Intl Patent Class:
  (B1) A01M-001/10
IPC Advanced All:
  A01M-001/02 [2006-01 A - I R M EP]; A01M-001/20 [2006-01 A - I R M EP]
IPC Core All :
  A01M-001/02 [2006 C - I R M EP]; A01M-001/20 [2006 C - I R M EP]
EPO ECLA Class :
  A01M-001/20B1
  A01M-001/02E
EPO ICO Class :
  K01M-200/011
  ORIGINAL (O): 043121000; CROSS-REFERENCE (X): 043124000 043131000
  043132100 340573100
Document Type :
  Basic
Citations :
  Cited in the search report
   -US6016625 (A) [US6016625]
   -US6065241 (A) [US6065241]
   -US6100805 (A) [US6100805]
   -US6158166(A)[US6158166]
   -US6189393 (B1) [US6189393]
   -US6219960 (B1) [US6219960]
   -US6255959 (B1) [US6255959]
   -US6266918 (B1) [US6266918]
   Cited by the applicant
   -US3564750(A)[US3564750]
   -US5329726(A)[US5329726]
   -US5575105 (A) [US5575105]
   -US5592774 (A) [US5592774]
   -US5899018 (A) [US5899018]
   -US5901496(A)[US5901496]
   -"Systematic Termite Control (TM)" brochure; FMC Corporation; 7/99; 2 pp.
   -"Termatrol Pro" brochure; Sector Diagnostics, LLC; no date; 2 pp.
   -"Quarterra Extended Inspection Interval Station" brochure; Ensystex; no
   date; 2 pp.
 Publication Stage:
   (B1) U.S. Patent (no pre-grant pub.) after Jan. 2, 2001
 Abstract :
   Apparatus, for detecting the presence and eating activity of organisms
   such as termites that damage structures, includes a body; a wooden bait
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   body. A flag member that is connected to the upper end of the bait
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element projects from the body when the bait element is weakened to the
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 2002-17
1 / 1
      LGST - ©EPO
Patent Number :
  US6370811 B1 20020416 [US6370811](B1) Granted patent as first
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Application Number :
  US62846300 20000731 [2000US-0628463]
Publication actions : .
  20000731 US-API [POS; EXM]
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  20020416 US-B1 [POS; PIF]
  Granted patent as first publication
  US6370811 B1 20020416 [US6370811]
Action Taken :
  20040803 US/RF-A [OPP]
  REISSUE APPLICATION FILED
  EFFECTIVE DATE: 20040415
Lasted Event Group :
  OPP
  Alive
Update Code :
  2004-34
1 / 1
      CRXX - @CLAIMS/RRX
Patent Number :
  6,370,811 A 20020416 [US6370811]
Patent Assignee :
 Masterson, Michael J
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  ISSUE DATE OF O.G.: 20040803
  REISSUE REQUEST NUMBER: 10/826905
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Reissue Patent Number: